

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, and 15-21 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 20, and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 7-14 and 22-24 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15, 16 and 18-21 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the specification does not provide support for the features of “first information and second information,” and the “second information representing whether the first information is the latest information.” Applicant respectfully disagrees and directs the Examiner’s attention, for example, to page 8, lines 1-16 of the specification. Applicant submits that the claimed first information corresponds, for example, to the device ID (comprising a model code, spare code, and machine number) and the claimed second information corresponds, for example, to the 1-bit flag representing whether the device ID corresponding to the flag is the latest information.

Further, the Examiner submits that the specification does not provide support for the feature of “third information and fourth information representing whether the third information is the latest information.” Again, Applicant respectfully disagrees and directs the Examiner’s attention, for example, to page 8, lines 1-16 of the specification. Applicant

submits that the specification discloses embedding multiple records (N records) and the third information corresponds, for example, to the device ID of an additional record and the fourth information corresponds, for example, to the 1-bit flag of the additional record representing whether the device ID corresponding to the flag is the latest information.

Lastly under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Examiner submits that the specification does not provide support for the features of “the first information specifies said apparatus,” and “wherein the first and third information specifies said apparatus.” Applicant respectfully disagrees and directs the Examiner’s attention, for example, to page 7, lines 5-16 of the specification. Applicant submits that the specification discloses an apparatus capable of embedding information containing its device ID. Since, as discussed above, the first information and the third information correspond, for example, to a device ID, the first information and third information specify the apparatus.

In view of the above arguments, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-6, and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims in view of the Examiner’s comments and believes that such amendments overcome the Examiner’s objections. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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